

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 93-98, 101-107, 110-128, 136-140, 144-162, 165-170, and 172-246 are pending in the application. Claims 194-246 have been added in this amendment. Claims 1-21 have been allowed.

In order to simplify the case for examination, Applicants have canceled claims 93-122, 129-135, 141-143, 163, 164, 171, 184, 185, and 191-192 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants note that canceled independent claims 93, 102, 184, and 191 recite substantially the same subject matter as that recited in pending claims 157, 160, 169, and 186, respectively.

New claims 194-210 correspond to claims 1-17 of European Patent No. EP 0 740 811 B1. The EP '811 patent is the European Patent Office counterpart to U.S. Patent No. 5,732,212, which is the basis of the present reissue application. Claims 194-210 have been modified to conform to U.S. practice. A copy of EP 0 740 811 B1, showing the allowed/granted claims, is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 194-210 are patentable.

New claims 211-246 were formerly pending in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/401,501 as claims 11, 13-41, 43, 44, and 48-51. The '501 application is owned by the same assignee as the present application. During prosecution of the '501 application, claims 11, 13-41, 43, 44, and 48-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,732,212, which is the basis of the present reissue application. Thus, in the '501 application, the U.S. Patent Office has taken the official

position that claims 11, 13-41, 43, 44, and 48-51 of the '501 application (*i.e.*, claims 211-246 of the present application) are fully-disclosed and enabled by the present application. Accordingly, these claims are being presented in this application for further examination based on the Patent Office's position that the claims are enabled by the '212 patent specification.

The Examiner has contended that the '212 specification does not describe and enable the "switch" claim elements. The applicants have canceled claims 99, 100, 108, 109, 129-135, 141-143, 163, 164, and 171 which variously recited the objected to "switch" elements. Thus, the section 112 rejection of these claims is now moot.

If an interview would facilitate examination and allowance of the now pending claims, the undersigned would be pleased to be available at (703) 248-9401.

Respectfully submitted,

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